

COVER TO COVER

THE BIBLE IN 10 MINUTES, 5 DAYS PER WEEK



10:5

We created this plan to capture the **highlights** of Scripture over the 22 weeks of the “Cover to Cover” sermon series. While this plan will not cover everything, it will give you a holistic perspective on the story of the Bible and what that means for your life today. Week 19 of the plan is below. We will update this plan each week so please check back weekly.

WEEK 19

Welcome to week nineteen of the “Cover to Cover” Bible reading plan. Last week, we looked at Jesus’ birth, some of his most well-known teachings, his death, resurrection, and ascension. This week, we will be looking at the first half of the book of Acts and how God was moving in the Early Church.

DAY 1 Acts Chapter 1 describes the events following Jesus’ resurrection and the early days of the Church. This chapter includes some powerful events, including Jesus’ final instructions and his ascension into Heaven with a promise to return someday. Today, **read Acts 1.**

DAY 2 Today, we will read Acts chapter 2. This chapter records the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Pentecost means “fiftieth day” and was a Jewish holiday that occurred 50 days after Passover. This chapter is incredibly important because it marks the beginning of the new covenant and the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit in all Jesus followers. Before this event, the Holy Spirit only came on specific individuals at specific times. Today, **read Acts 2.**

DAY 3 Today we will read Acts chapters 3 and 4. These chapters contain the beginning of Peter and John’s journeys to live out Jesus’ final instructions to make disciples of all nations. In these chapters, we see Peter performing a miracle and speaking through the power of the Holy Spirit. These actions led to Peter and John being arrested. Today, **read Acts 3 and 4.**

DAY 4 Today we will read Acts chapters 6 and 7. These two chapters contain the powerful story of the martyrdom of Stephen. While this is a sad event, it is also an incredible testimony to Stephen’s faith. Today, **read Acts 6 and 7.**

DAY 5 As we enter Chapter 8 of Acts, the Church is being persecuted. While this was a difficult season, it also was a season God used to spread the good news of Jesus to surrounding nations. In fact, this chapter contains two powerful stories of transformation in the lives of people who came to Christ due to the expansion of the church outside of Jerusalem. Today, **read Acts 8.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is something that caught your attention from this week's sermon?
2. Have you ever imagined living a different life in an alternate reality? What might be different about who you are or what you do?
3. Acts 2:42-47 describes how the early Christians lived in a new reality shaped by their faith. What aspects of their lifestyle stand out to you the most? How does this differ from typical modern-day Christian practices?
4. The early Christians devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer. In what ways are these practices already a part of your life? In what ways can you personally — or as a group — embrace these practices more fully in your life today?
5. Reflect on the idea of living in an "alternate reality" where the values of God's kingdom are evident in your life. What is one change you could make this week to step more fully into this kingdom reality?

READ THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN 6 MONTHS!

Looking for a challenge? Follow the YouVersion "Read the Bible in Six Months" reading plan. You'll read through the **ENTIRE** Bible over the course of just six months. That works out to six chapters of reading each day a commitment, but certainly manageable, and one that's well worth making. Scan to start.

